

INTRODUCTION TO I PETER

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- I. Introductory verses of I Peter.
 - A. Verses 1 & 2.
 - B. Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, Bithynia
 1. Location is Asia Minor.
 2. Letter went to some Churches that Paul had founded and many that Paul had never been to, but rest assured that Paul's letters &/or content resided in all of the Churches. There was not a contest between Peter and Paul, but unity.
- II. The Name Peter
 - A. Simeon--Hebrew for Peter's original name: 1) Acts 15:14 & 2) 2 Peter 1:1.
 - B. Simon--Greek for Simeon, used 49 times in the Greek Testament.
 - C. Cephas--A Greek transliteration of the Aramaic word for *rock*.
 - D. Peter--His Greek name.
- III. Peter's Home and Family.
 - A. Bethsaida--on the sea of Galilee. A fresh water lake approximately 6 kilometers wide x 13 kilometers long.
 - B. Family
 1. Matt. 16:17, Jesus addresses him as Simon Barjona or Simon, Son of Jonas.
 2. Mother not mentioned.
 3. Matt. 27:56 & Mark 15:40; 16:1 along with Matt 4:18-22, Easton uses these passages to say that Simon and Andrew's father had died and that they were raised by Zebedee, the father of James and John and mother Salome. **Garland has now done some research on this and does not find anybody else mentioning such a thing nor do the verses support the notion.**
 4. Early on Peter w/wife, Brother Andrew, wife's mother & sometimes Jesus lived in Capernaum, north shore of the Sea of Galilee.
- IV. Peter during Christ's Ministry.
 - A. Beginning.
 1. Andrew brought Peter to Jesus (John 1:40-42) **Read John 1:40-51.**
 2. Matthew 4:18-22--Jesus calling Peter to be a fisherman of men.
 - B. Significant Events.
 1. Peter walked on Water (Matt. 14:30).
 2. Peter understood who Jesus is: Matt 16:13-17.
 3. Jesus told Peter he would get the keys to the Kingdom (Matt. 16:18-20; 18:18-20).
 4. Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-13).
 5. Apostle's to Israel will sit on 12 Thrones over 12 Tribes (Matt. 19:27-28).
 6. Jesus tells Peter he will deny Him (Matt. 26:31-35).
 7. The eleven w/Peter leading choose Matthias as the twelfth Apostle to the Jews (Acts 1:12-26).

- V. The Church Begins
 - A. Acts 2:22-24--Jesus delivered up.
 - B. Acts 2:32-38--Peter announces the requirement for receiving the Holy Spirit. These are devout Jews who by following Peter's command will become transitionalized from Law to Grace.
 - C. Acts 5:1-11--Ananias and Sapphira.
 - D. Acts 9--Saul's Conversion on the Road to Damascus.
 - E. Acts 9:32-42--Peter healed the sick and raised the dead (Dorcas).
 - F. Acts 10:1-48--Peter goes to Cornelius, a Roman Soldier and gives him and his household the Gospel.
 - 1. Peter was at Simon the Tanners home in Joppa.
 - 2. Cornelius was at Caesarea, about 25 miles from Joppa.
 The events of Chapter 10 are some 6-8 years after Pentecost.
 - G. Acts 11:1-18--Peter explains to the Jewish Brethren about the Gospel going to the Gentiles.
 - H. Acts 12--Peter thrown into prison.
- VI. What was Peter's relationship to Paul?
 - A. Paul, the Steward of the Dispensation of Grace (Eph. 3:1-10; Col. 1:25-29).
 - B. Gal. 1:15-2:10--Paul reveals the Gospel for the Dispensation of Grace, which came to him by revelation. This was 17 years after Acts 9.
 - C. Gal. 2:11-21--Paul confronts Peter concerning his hypocrisy
 - D. Acts 15:1-12--Peter acknowledges the Dispensation of Grace Doctrine spelled out by Paul, no bitterness of resentment in Peter.
 - E. Its also noteworthy that Paul and Peter shared people such as John Mark and Silvanus. There was communication between them and its obvious that Peter had access to Paul's material, in fact, that is a frequent reason given by those who say I Peter was not written by Peter, because it sounds too Pauline! Of course many don't believe in the Dispensation of Grace or the Household of Grace, that we are the Body of Christ, that we are to hold to the same doctrines, or that, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all." Eph. 4:4-6.
- VII. What about Peter during the Silent Years?
 - A. Between Acts 15 and I Peter is probably 11 to 14 years.
 - B. Peter is probably in his mid sixties.
 - C. Paul says in I Cor. 9:5 that Peter traveled with his wife on his Apostolic Journeys. Paul wrote I Corinthians around 55 AD.
 - D. While Peter may not have personally gone to all the Churches the letter was to go, according to Paul he was traveling and ministering with his spiritual gift of Apostle.
 - E. According to the epistle Peter was a fellow Elder in his local assembly, so probably did not travel as much as Paul.

- F. Its also a good assumption that Peter like Paul had trusted associates giving him feedback as to what was transpiring in the areas Peter was responsible for as an Apostle.
- VIII. Was Peter Ever in Rome?
- A. Some scholars hold to the belief that Peter spent his last years in Rome.
 - B. Many scholars from the Catholic Church, British Scholars, and American Scholars overwhelmingly reject the notion that Peter ever stepped foot into Rome.
 - C. The apostle Paul spent most of his last years in Rome in prison and wrote several epistles: 1) Ephesians 2) Philippians 3) Colossians 4) Philemon and not once mentioned Peter being with him in Rome. These were written from 59-61.
 - D. Paul wrote 2 Timothy during his second Roman imprisonment around 66-67, which is the time claimed for Peter to be in Rome and again no mention of Peter by Paul.
 - E. The evidence that I have looked at strongly says that Peter never went to Rome.
- IX. Who was Roman Emperor when Peter wrote I Peter?
- A. Nero Claudius Drusus Germanicus.
 - B. Ruled from AD 54 to AD 68 when he committed suicide.
 - C. Started off his rule similar to the rule of Claudius, meaning he tried to run the empire in a business like manner and tried to be fair in his dealings with the people, but in his later years became very ruthless having wholesale numbers put to death and his own life became more and more consumed with his sexual appetite, etc. Of course, he he was not quite 17.
 - D. It is believed that he had the city of Rome set on fire in AD 64 and then blamed it on the Christians, having many of them put to death, but this was confined to Rome.
 - E. His mother was Agrippina, named after Agrippa.
- X. Was Peter's Epistle prompted by unusual circumstances?
- A. No!
 - B. The areas Peter wrote to had many Hellenistic Jews who had resided in these areas for many generations.
 - 1. As in the places Paul set up Churches you had many unbelieving Jews who tended to be among the primary persecutors.
 - 2. Unbelieving Gentiles also derided the Christians for not living and sharing the same life style as themselves. The gentiles would mainly become hostile only if either their lifestyle was under attack, or more importantly their businesses, as was demonstrated by the Apostle Paul in Ephesus.
 - C. This was not a sudden dispersion, where Peter was residing the Jewish community dated back to the Babylonian Captivity that occurred around 586 BC.
- XI. When did Peter write I Peter?
- A. Most Scholars put the date between AD 60 and 65. Of course, nobody knows for sure when the letter was written.

- B. Internal evidence (meaning the things Peter addresses and the doctrinal statements whereby the information came from Paul) give the best indication for the date. Scholars have a much better grasp on when Paul wrote his epistles and by Peter including closely aligned statements gives a good indication that this letter had to be written later than Paul's with similar information.
- XII. From Where did Peter Write?
- A. Peter says in I Peter 5:13 that he is writing from Babylon.
 - B. Many try to make this reference out to be mystical only because they want Peter to be in Rome.
- XIII. Peter's Death.
- A. Again a popular belief is that Peter was martyred in Rome.
 - B. One story was that no he was not martyred in Rome, but his head was brought to Rome and is buried there.
 - C. Here is what we know:
 - 1. John 21:17-19--Jesus tells Peter he will die a martyr's death similar to Jesus himself on a tree. With Peter it says that they would gird him as opposed to putting nails thru his hands and feet.
 - 2. In 2 Peter 1:12-15--Peter's death is imminent, as the Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to him. It is believed that Peter wrote this letter at the latest 67 AD.